

From: **Sea Alarm** secretariat@sea-alarm.org
Subject: Latest update from the EUROWA project

EUROWA



The EUROWA project, coordinated by the Sea Alarm Foundation, is developing a module of oiled wildlife response experts and equipment which can be mobilised internationally by European governments. In this newsletter, we highlight some achievements from the second half of 2016 and talk about plans for the future of EUROWA.

Training events a great step toward increased oiled wildlife response capacity in Europe



In September and October the EUROWA project held a series of pilot training events in Belgium designed to test courses developed over the last two years. Participants with varying levels of expertise and experience from ten European countries gathered in Ostend to attend the two pilot training events and provide feedback on the course content and approach.

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Exercise and evaluation improves management of specialist response equipment



EUROWA partners met in Hamburg for a second equipment inspection and evaluation exercise aimed at refining and maintaining the stockpile of specialised oiled wildlife response supplies in readiness. ProBird, one of the EUROWA partners, kindly provided local support for the event. [Read more...](#)

The EUROWA Project comes to a close



The EUROWA Project Team gathered for their last Team Event to showcase SPECIALIST training and exercise modules, and to evaluate and close the EU-funded project. The event took place December 12-16 at the RSPCA's Wildlife Hospital in Mallydams Wood, UK.

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The future of EUROWA and this newsletter



Now that the EU-funded project is closing, what happens with EUROWA, the EUROWA Module, and this newsletter? Although the EU-funded project is closing, it does not mean that the cooperation of those involved in the project will sunset.

In 2015-2016 EU funding allowed the project partners and subcontractors to develop and deliver a set of very important building blocks that will serve European authorities, NGOs, and potential oil spillers in dealing professionally with the challenges connected to the oiling of wildlife.

The end of this EU project means the beginning of a period in which the EUROWA Module can become an integrated part of the European Civil Protection Mechanism and in which an increasing number of individuals based in European countries can be trained towards the qualifications the project has defined. In their own countries, these individuals can act as first responders. Outside of their country, they can assist their wildlife responder colleagues, as needed and requested, through their authorities.

With everyone performing to the same international standards and procedures, European countries will be increasingly effective in dealing professionally with oiled wildlife incidents of larger complexity. This is and has been, the philosophy and mission of the organisations and individuals involved in the project, and together they are continuing their work. A EUROWA network of organisations will be created via the MoU system developed as part of the project, and via this network, individual responders can obtain EUROWA qualifications.

This Newsletter will continue as the source of communication regarding the EUROWA network, its activities, and the increasing number of individuals who can be considered for mobilisation as part of a EUROWA Module call out.

As this is the final issue of the Newsletter under the present EU funding, the Project Team and subcontractors wish to thank the European Commission for their financial and management support. A big thank you is also due to the various authority representatives in the different European countries who have assisted the project, and the secretariats of the Regional Agreements and chairs of the technical working groups who have been so supportive of this project and provided so much assistance to its success.

Sea Alarm and the EUROWA Project team wish you a great start of the New Year, and will reconnect with you soon in 2017!

Further information:

www.oiledwildlife.eu/eurowa



EUROWA is a project co-financed by the EU under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, developed in cooperation with Wildlife Rescue Centre Oostende, RSPCA, WWF Finland, Pro-Bird, Estonian Fund for Nature, CVFSE, Tim Thomas and coordinated by the Sea Alarm Foundation.



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